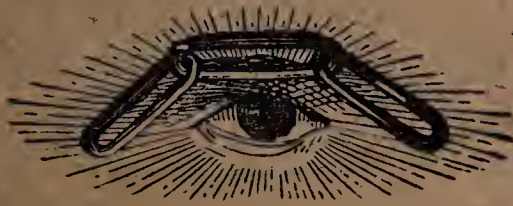


CONSTITUTION,
BY-LAWS AND RULES OF
MUTUAL RELIEF LODGE,

No. 83, F. O. O. F.



INSTITUTED SEPT. 4, 1845.

HAVERHILL, MASS.

FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH.

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C. C. MORSE AND SON, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE name of our Order is not calculated to recommend it. It is, however, not without significance ; for Friendship, Love, and Truth are not so generally found and cherished in societies, as not to be regarded, in some degree, peculiarities and eccentricities, when they are made, as with us, the basis of social intercourse, and set forth distinctly as the fundamental principles of human association. That FELLOWSHIP, of which these are the links, and which is established for the express purpose of cultivating, strengthening, and exercising these cardinal virtues, is justly entitled to the appellation, *ORD.* We might desire for our Order a more dignified and euphonious title, and one more worthy of its excellent objects ; but we are not disposed to quarrel with the name, so long as we are sure that the principles it covers are generous, elevated, and pure. And we are confident that no man ever penetrated the veil, on the outside of which that quaint motto is inscribed, without confessing that the reality is far better than the resemblance, the image more noble than the superscription.

Odd Fellowship is an association for mutual relief — a system of ASSURANCE against the evils which attach to poverty, misfortune, sickness, orphanage, widowhood, and death, so far as they may be lightened by heartfelt sympathy and pecuniary aid.

It aims, also, to cultivate and draw out the social feelings. A well-conducted Lodge is a beautiful school for the friendly sympathies of our nature; and not only so, but also a seminary of all the virtues which dignify a human being, which are taught as well by direct instructions and lessons as by significant symbols and mottoes.

Odd Fellowship recognizes and urges our obligations to God, to our fellow-beings, to our country, and to ourselves; and none can be a good and true Odd Fellow without being a better Christian, a better citizen, and a better man.

It is a SECRET association no further than has been esteemed necessary to give interest to its meetings, and to its regular and somewhat arduous work of benevolence, to promote entire confidence amongst its members, and to secure the benefit of its funds to those who have contributed to raise, and are worthy to enjoy, them. In the matter of secrets, we can respond to the language of a brother, who declares, that, after all, the secret of Odd Fellowship consists in doing generous deeds.

The community in which we live is peculiarly a fitting place for the dissemination of principles of Odd Fellowship. It is calculated to strike at the very root of calumny, vituperative speaking, and personal abuse. It out the points courtesies of life, the respect and deference

which should be paid to the diversified views upon all matters pertaining to our existence. In short, exemplifying in our daily life, that the principles and injunctions of the Order cannot fail of exerting a sanitive influence upon the community around us.

The association itself is praiseworthy, being founded upon the noblest principles, and aiming to accomplish excellent results. It possesses the elements of great good and usefulness ; but, like all human institutions, its operation and effects must depend upon the character and intentions of the men who conduct it. If its members are upright and honest-hearted ; if they fling away the sin of AMBITION, both for themselves individually and for the Order ; if they will be content to enjoy themselves in their Lodges, and do good out of them without courting notoriety ; if they will be true to their obligations, and faithful to their work,—then ODD FELLOWSHIP will be as useful as respectable, and as enduring as its best friends can desire ; and even its unpromising name will, at length, become synonymous with brotherly love and virtue.

CHARTER.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to all whom it may concern :—

KNOW YE, that the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, reposing especial trust and confidence in a number of brothers of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, residing in Essex County, state of Massachusetts, doth hereby grant this Warrant to establish a Lodge at Haverhill, to be hailed by the title of Mutual Relief Lodge, No. 83, for the encouragement and support of brothers of the said Order, when on travel or otherwise. And the said Lodge No. 83, being duly formed and constituted, is hereby authorized and empowered to initiate into, and confer the several degrees, according to the Constitution and general laws as established by the Grand Lodge, upon such person or persons duly proposed and lawfully qualified to receive the same, according to the laws of Odd Fellowship, and to administer to true brothers all the privileges and benefits aris-

ing from the Order. And the said Lodge No. 83 is hereby authorized to enact by-laws for government of said Lodge, provided always, that said By-laws be in conformity to the Constitution and general laws of this Grand Lodge. And the said Lodge No. 83 doth solemnly promise to act according to the laws of the Order, and in obedience to the commands and enactments of the Grand Lodge.

In default thereof, this Warrant may be suspended or taken away at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto displayed the colors of the Order, and subscribed our names, and affixed the seal of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, this seventh day of August, 1845.

THOMAS F. NORRIS,

M. W. G. Master.

N. A. THOMPSON,

R. W. D. G. Master.

WILLIAM E. PARMENTER,

R. W. G. Secretary.

SOLON JENKINS,

W. G. Warden

HEZEKIAH PRINCE,

W. G. Treasurer.

DANIEL HERSEY,

E. H. CHAPIN,

Past Grand Masters.

CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

For the purpose of effecting uniformity in the administration of the privileges, honors, and benefits of the Order, the GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS ordains the following Articles, as the CONSTITUTION of the subordinate Lodges within its jurisdiction :—

ARTICLE I.

This Lodge shall be constituted by at least *five* members, including one qualified to preside at its meetings, and shall be hailed and entitled—
MUTUAL RELIEF LODGE, NO. 83., I. O. O. F.,
and shall possess the full powers and privileges of a subordinate Lodge, holding a legal, unre-

claimed, and valid Charter, duly granted and formally presented by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

This Lodge may open and close its sessions with prayer; and the N. G. may appoint a brother of the Lodge to act as Chaplain.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERSHIP.

First Section.—Admission.

CLAUSE 1. The candidate shall be a believer in a Supreme Being,—Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things. He shall not be under *twenty-one* years of age. He shall be a man of good moral character, and industrious habits, having some known respectable means of support and exempt from all infirmities which may prevent his gaining a livelihood.

CLAUSE 2. The name of a person offered for initiation must be proposed by a member, in writing, stating his age, residence, and business, with good reference, which must be entered on the record, and the subject referred to the Com-

mittee for Investigation, who shall report at the succeeding Regular Meeting, when the candidate may be balloted for, with ball-ballots ; and, if not more than *two black* balls appear against him, he shall be elected : if *three* or more appear, he shall be rejected, and so declared. Should objections be made to any person after his election, and previous to initiation, the Lodge may rescind the vote by which said candidate was elected.

CLAUSE 3. A brother of the Order, wishing to become a member, shall present his card from the Lodge of which he was formerly a member, which shall be referred to the Committee of Investigation, and in other respects disposed of as provided in Clause 2 for other applicants, with the exception that he may be admitted by a majority vote of the members present, if the card was drawn from the Lodge in which he deposits it, and provided the Investigating Committee report in favor of his re-admission ; and, on being admitted, shall pay a sum of not less than *two dollars*.

CLAUSE 4. An ancient Odd Fellow, whose card is out of date, or which may have been lost, can

be admitted by referring his application to the Investigating Committee, and disposing of it in other respects as is provided for other applicants in the foregoing Clauses, and on his paying into the Lodge-fund a sum of not less than *five dollars*.

CLAUSE 5. When a candidate has been rejected, for immoral conduct or impaired health, duly specified, notice thereof shall be sent, without delay, to all the Lodges in the same county, and within *ten miles* of the Lodge in which the candidate is rejected; and a list of candidates so rejected shall be sent, at the end of each term, to the Grand Secretary; and no person so rejected shall be again balloted for in any Lodge for the space of *six months*.

CLAUSE 6. No person residing in a town or city where a Lodge or Lodges exist, shall be initiated in this Lodge without an official permit from a Lodge in the town where he resides, or the Board of Grand Officers.

Second Section.—Contributions and benefits.

CLAUSE 1. Every member, who shall be qualified as required by the By-laws, shall, in case of

sickness and disability, be entitled to receive such weekly benefit as may be fixed by law, from the funds of the Lodge.

CLAUSE 2. In case of the death of a brother, who shall be qualified as provided in Clause 1, there shall be allowed from the Lodge a sum of not less than *thirty dollars*, to defray the expenses of burial, which shall be appropriated, without delay, under the direction of the Lodge. The N. G., in the absence of competent relations, shall take charge of the funeral, and receive an account of the disbursements.

Third Section.—Penalties and Trial.

CLAUSE 1. Any member who shall violate any of the principles of the Order, or offend against these Articles or the By-laws, shall be subject to be fined, reprimanded, suspended, or expelled, as the By-laws may direct or the Lodge determine.

CLAUSE 2. Every member shall be entitled to a fair trial for any offence involving reprimand, suspension, or expulsion ; but no member of this Lodge shall be put on trial, unless charges, duly specifying his offence, be submitted to the Lodge,

in writing, by brothers of the Order, except when made liable by non-payment to the Lodge.

CLAUSE 3. When charges have been preferred against a brother, in proper manner, or any matters of grievance between brothers be brought before the Lodge, they shall be referred to a special committee of *five* members, who shall, if possible, be chosen from among the peers of the implicated brother ; and they shall, with as little delay as the case will admit, summon the parties, and examine and determine the matter in question ; and, if not involving the expulsion or suspension of a member, or if no appeal be taken from their decision to the Lodge, their decision shall be final. Should the committee be convinced of the necessity of suspending or expelling a member, they shall submit a motion for the purpose to the Lodge for action.

CLAUSE 4 When a motion for the expulsion or suspension of a member shall have been submitted in due form, it shall be announced at *two* Regular Meetings previous to action being taken, and the accused shall be summoned to be in attendance at the Lodge at the time when it may have been determined to consider the ques-

tion, at which time, whether the implicated brother be present or not, the Lodge may proceed to consider and determine it. *Two-thirds* of the members present voting in favor of the motion, it shall be carried ; and the Lodge shall be fully competent, while such motion is under consideration, to vary the penalty from the original motion.

CLAUSE 5. When the decision of a committee appointed under Clause 3 shall not be satisfactory to all parties, either of those interested shall have the privilege of appeal to the Lodge ; and, at the time appointed for trying the appeal, the committee shall present to the Lodge, in writing, the grounds on which their decision was founded ; and the parties shall have the privilege of being heard before the Lodge ; and the Lodge shall determine the correctness of the decision of the committee, by a majority of votes present.

CLAUSE 6. Any brother, feeling aggrieved by the decision of the Lodge against him, is entitled to an appeal to the Grand Lodge for a new trial : if informality or want of fairness be shown on the former trial, and on the command of the

Grand Lodge, the brother may be tried anew for the same offence.

CLAUSE 7. Any brother having been suspended or expelled, notice thereof shall be sent to the Grand Secretary; and a brother who has been legally expelled shall not be again admitted to membership without the consent of the Grand Lodge.

CLAUSE 8. Withdrawal cards must be applied for in open Lodge, in person or in writing.

ARTICLE III.

OFFICERS.

First Section.—Elective and Appointed Officers.

CLAUSE 1. The elective officers of the Lodge shall consist of N. G., V. G., Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall serve a regular term each. When deemed necessary, the Lodge may elect a Permanent Secretary, in addition, to serve *twelve months*.

CLAUSE 2. The appointed officers shall consist of a W., C., O. G., I. G., R. S. N. G., L. S. N. G., R. S. V. G., L. S. V. G., and R. and L. S.

S., who shall serve a regular term each ; and the N. G. may appoint, at his option, a Chaplain or Chaplains for a similar term.

Second Section.—Duties of Officers.

CLAUSE 1. The duties of the various officers shall be as laid down in the charges of their office, and as specified by these Articles and the By-laws of the Lodge.

CLAUSE 2. The Permanent Secretary, when one has been chosen by the Lodge, shall make the returns to the Grand Lodge, and take charge of the accounts between the Lodge and its members ; but the Secretary shall record the proceedings and perform all other duties of the office.

Third Section —Elections.

CLAUSE 1. No brother shall be eligible to the chair of the N. G. unless he has served a regular term as V. G. Nor shall any brother be eligible as V. G. unless he has served one term in some inferior office.

CLAUSE 2. All elective officers, and the W. O. G. and I. G., shall have attained to the Scarlet Degree previous to installation.

CLAUSE 3. Nominations for the elective officers shall be made on the *two* meetings immediately preceding that of the elections.

CLAUSE 4. At elections, all ballots for eligible candidates (see 3d Section of Article III of Constitution) shall be counted, whether previously nominated or not ; and all ballots for ineligible candidates must be counted as blanks. Any candidate, to be elected, must receive a majority of all the ballots cast, whether they be blanks or not ; but, if there is no choice upon the first ballot, the three having the highest number of ballots shall be the only eligible candidates for subsequent ballotings. All ballots for other candidates must be counted as blanks : if there is no choice on the second ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of ballots shall be set aside at each subsequent balloting.

CLAUSE 5 Officers shall be elected at the last Regular Meeting in each term, and shall be installed at the first meeting in the succeeding one.

CLAUSE 6. Any officer absenting himself for more than *three* successive meetings, his seat may be declared vacant by a vote of the Lodge ;

and all vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the former selection, to serve the residue of the term ; and officers so serving shall be entitled to the full honors of the term.

ARTICLE IV.

TERMS AND RETURNS.

First Section.—Terms.

The regular terms shall commence on the first day of January and July ; and all terms shall end on the day on which the succeeding ones commence.

Second Section.—Returns.

CLAUSE 1. It shall be the duty of the retiring officers to prepare and forward to the Grand Lodge, immediately, the result of the elections, and a regular report of the work of the term, including the names of those initiated, admitted by card, re-instated, deceased, rejected, withdrawn by card, suspended, or expelled, and the cause thereof, together with the number of degrees conferred, the whole number in membership, the amount of receipts, and the result of

the election of officers, accompanied by whatever amount may be due the Grand Lodge.

CLAUSE 2. It shall be the duty of the Lodge, also, to forward to the Grand Lodge, in like manner, up to the first of July, annually, a full return of the members of the Lodge, ranked according to the degrees attained, and a statement of the number of brothers relieved by the Lodge in the past year, the number of widowed families relieved, the number of brothers buried, with the amount of money applied to each of these purposes, designating the amount paid for the education of orphans.

Third Section.—Forfeiture of Charter.

Should this Lodge fail to make its returns, as required by the second section of this Article, for two successive terms, it shall thereby forfeit its Charter; and it shall become the duty of the last installed officers to transmit or surrender to the Grand Secretary (or such other brother as may be appointed by the Grand Lodge to receive them) the Charter, books, papers, furniture, and funds of the Lodge.

ARTICLE V.

DEGREES.

First Section.—Eligibility for Degrees.

Brothers who have been in membership *one month* shall be eligible for degrees; and not more than *three* degrees shall be conferred on a brother at the same meeting, unless the most urgent necessity be proved.

Second Section.—Rates of Initiation and Degrees.

The fee for initiation, in all Lodges under this jurisdiction, shall not be less than *ten dollars*, and the price of degrees not less than *two dollars* each.

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENTS.

First Section.—Amendments.

CLAUSE 1. When doubts arise of the true meaning of any part of these Articles, it shall be determined by the Grand Lodge.

CLAUSE 2. These Articles, or any part thereof,

shall not be altered, amended, suspended, or annulled, except on motion made in Grand Lodge, at a Regular Meeting (notice of which motion shall be immediately transmitted to the subordinate Lodges), and adopted by the representatives of a majority of said Lodges present at a Regular Session.

CLAUSE 3. All By-laws and amendments thereto shall, immediately upon their adoption and their approval by the Board of Grand Officers, be printed and placed in the hands of the members of the Lodge.

Second Section.—By-laws.

This Lodge shall stand fully invested with power to adopt such By-laws and Resolutions from time to time as may be deemed expedient, provided they do not in any wise contravene any part of these Articles, the Laws or Constitution of the Grand Lodge, or the principles of the Order.

BY-LAWS

OF

MUTUAL RELIEF LODGE, NO. 83, I. O. O. F.

ARTICLE 1

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. This Lodge shall assemble on Monday evening of each week for the transaction of general business.

The hour of meeting shall be 7 1-2 o'clock. The Lodge shall be opened at the appointed time; and, in the absence of the N. G. and V. G., a P. G. of the Lodge shall take the chair.

SECT 2. Special meetings may be called by the N. G., at discretion, or on the written request of any five members, and shall be called by

printed or written notices, stating the business to come before said meeting, and shall be delivered to the members at least three days before the meeting, except when called to attend the funeral of a deceased brother.

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS.

SECTION. 1 The elective officers shall be chosen by ballot, separately, and must receive a majority of all votes given to entitle them to election. The election shall be conducted according to Art. III, Sect. 3, Clause 4 of the Constitution.

SECT. 2. The appointed officers shall be appointed by the N. G. immediately after his installation, except the R. and L. S. of the V. G., who shall be appointed by the V. G.; and no brother shall be installed to any office unless clear on the books.

SECT. 3. Any committee, or member of committee, may be dismissed from his office for neglect of duty, by the Lodge, one week after a written resolution to that effect has been offered.

SECT. 4. The several elective and appointed officers shall faithfully and impartially fulfil the duties of their respective offices agreeably to the Constitution and By-laws and the installation obligations and charges and the Ritual of the Order.

SECT. 5. The N. G. shall appoint a majority of all committees, and give the casting-vote only, on all matters or questions before the Lodge, except in the election of officers or balloting for candidates, when he shall be entitled to vote. He shall announce the results of all ballotings and votes by the Lodge.

He shall draw upon the Treasurer for all sums voted by the Lodge, or to pay the benefits as provided by these laws.

SECT. 6. The Permanent Secretary shall notify all members, who are thirty weeks in arrears, of the amount due by them to the Lodge, and shall, if practicable, before the close of every meeting, pay to the Treasurer the receipts of the evening, and shall report the amount to the N. G. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of absent officers, and register of members present. They shall receive for their services such com-

pensation as the Lodge may from time to time determine, payable semi-annually.

SECT. 7. The Treasurer, prior to his installation, shall give a bond to the N. G. and V. G., with two sureties, to be approved by the Lodge, with such penalties and conditions as may be prescribed by the Lodge. He shall pay to the trustees all sums in his hands over two hundred dollars, taking their receipt for the same, pay all orders drawn on him by the N. G., for benefits provided for by these laws, attested by the Secretary, and none others, except accompanied by a copy of the vote authorizing such draft. He shall give the Lodge a monthly statement of the funds in his hands, and furnish, at the last meeting of the term, a full report of the receipts and disbursements of the term, with vouchers.

ARTICLE III.

TRUSTEES.

SECTION 1. At the last meeting in December, annually, there shall be elected, by ballot, three trustees of the funds of Mutual Relief Lodge No. 83, I. O. of O. F., who shall hold in trust

all stocks, securities, and funds, and transfer, exchange, or deposit the same, or any part thereof, whenever required under these laws to do so. They shall deposit in person, at the end of each month, all moneys in their hands in such bank, or invest in such stocks, as the Lodge may direct, in the name of——Trustees of Mutual Relief Lodge No. 83, I. O. of O. F., not to be drawn out by them without an order signed by the N. G. and countersigned by the Secretary; and no amount shall be drawn without the consent of the Lodge by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a Regular Meeting.

SECT. 2. The trustees shall give a joint and several bond to the N. G. and V. G., with two sureties, to be approved by the Lodge before entering upon the duties of their office; and they may each or all be removed from office for neglect of duty or misconduct, in the same manner as any other elective officer.

SECT. 3. The trustees shall take charge of indigent widows and orphans of deceased brothers, and extend such relief, from time to time, as may be voted by the Lodge.

ARTICLE IV.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The N. G. shall, immediately after his installation, or at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge, appoint a Visiting Committee, Finance Committee, and Investigating Committee, who, if approved by the Lodge, shall serve a regular term.

SECT. 2. The Visiting Committee shall consist of the N. G., V. G., Treasurer, and four or more appointed members of this Lodge ; and it shall be the duty of this committee to see that one or more of their number visit any brother who is reported sick, every day during his illness, and render such assistance as these laws provide.

SECT. 3. The Finance Committee shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to supervise the financial concerns of the Lodge ; to inspect and audit, semi-annually, the accounts of the Permanent Secretary and Treasurer, and all officers and committees charged with the receipt and expenditure of money of the Lodge, and may examine the books and accounts of said officers

or committees whenever they think proper, and shall report as speedily as possible on all matters they may have in hand.

SECT 4. The Investigating Committee shall carefully examine the qualifications of candidates for membership, and report at the next Regular Meeting subsequent to that in which the candidate is proposed.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. When a proposition for membership shall be made, it may be withdrawn, before the report of the Investigating Committee, but not afterwards; and the candidates thus proposed shall, on the report of the committee, be balloted for.—*See Digest U. S. G. L.*

SECT. 2. In all cases, the fee for membership shall be paid previous to initiation; and, on each proposition for membership, the sum of five dollars shall accompany the same, which shall be refunded if the candidate is rejected.

SECT 3. No person shall be initiated who shall

fail to present himself within three months, unless, for good reasons given, he is permitted by the unanimous consent of the Lodge; but he may be proposed again as if he had not been elected.

SECT. 4. In balloting for members, the ballot-box shall be placed in the center of the hall; and the ballot shall be examined by the N. G. and his R. and L. S.

SECT. 5. Every member, on being admitted, shall sign the Constitution and By-laws of the Lodge, and receive from the N. G. a copy of the same before taking his seat as a member.

ARTICLE VI.

WITHDRAWAL AND VISITING CARDS.

SECTION 1. When a brother desires to withdraw his membership from this Lodge, and shall signify his desire in open Lodge, personally or in writing, and he shall be entitled to receive a withdrawal card, if clear on the books and free from charges, and receiving a majority *ballot* on the first application.

SECT. 2. When a brother desires a visiting-card, he shall, if clear on the books and free from charges, be entitled to it by paying his dues to the end of the time for which it is given, and twenty-five cents for card (except when taken for a year or more, when no charge shall be made for the card), on receiving a majority vote.

ARTICLE VII.

WATCHERS.

SECTION 1. The Visiting Committee shall furnish watchers at an expense not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents per night.

SECT. 2. The Visiting Committee shall keep a book with the names of persons who are willing and competent to act as watchers.

ARTICLE VIII.

DUES AND FUNDS.

SECTION 1. The fees for initiation shall be, for a person under forty years of age, fifteen dollars ; and, if over forty, one dollar in addition for each year over forty.

SECT. 2. The fees for degrees shall be three dollars for each degree : and in no case shall the aggregate amount for the degrees be less than fifteen dollars.

SECT. 3. The fees for deposit of card shall be five dollars, and one dollar for each degree the candidate has taken, except in cases where the brother was initiated and received his degrees in this Lodge, in which case the fees shall be five dollars.

SECT. 4. An ancient Odd Fellow may be received for the same fees as provided in the foregoing section.

SECT. 5. Every member of this Lodge shall pay into the funds two dollars and twenty five cents per term. Brothers initiated during the term shall pay in the same ratio, and no brother shall be exempt or excused from paying.

ARTICLE IX.

FUNDS.

The stock, sureties, investments, and funds of the Lodge shall not be disposed of or transferred,

in whole or in part, unless by a motion at a Regular Meeting, and a two-thirds vote of the members present in its favor, provided that this section shall not prevent the passage of bills for contingent expenses or the payment of benefits and special votes of relief.

ARTICLE X.

BENEFITS.

SECTION 1. Every brother who has been a member of this Lodge one month, and not more than thirty weeks in arrears, shall, in case of being rendered incapable by sickness or accident of following some useful occupation, be entitled to and receive from the funds of this Lodge as follows: A member of the Initiatory Degree, two dollars; of the Third Degree, three dollars; and, of the Fifth Degree, five dollars, per week: provided such sickness or disability does not proceed from vicious or immoral conduct on his part. But no benefits shall be paid for the first two weeks' sickness or disability, nor for more than ten weeks in any one year (the year to commence with the sickness), unless the Visit-

ing Committee, for good cause shown, recommend further appropriations, and two-thirds of the members present at any Regular Meeting vote therefor.

SECT. 2. The funeral benefits shall be fifty dollars.

In case of death of a worthy brother, the Secretary shall give public notice ; and every member of the Lodge shall consider it his duty to attend the funeral.

SECT. 3. Any brother residing at a distance from Haverhill shall, in case of sickness, send to the N. G. a true statement of his case, attested by the N. G. under seal of the Lodge nearest his residence ; or, if no Lodge be near, his case, complaint, and circumstances shall be certified by a justice of the peace or a respectable physician.

SECT. 4. If a member from a distant Lodge apply to this Lodge for relief, on giving satisfactory evidence of being in good standing, the Visiting Committee shall investigate his circumstances, and appropriate such sum of money as they think necessary for his relief ;—not exceeding ten dollars, except by vote of the Lodge at a

Regular Meeting;—and they shall report the case and amount appropriated at the next Regular Meeting.

ARTICLE XI.

DEGREE MEETINGS.

The second Monday evening of each month shall be set apart for conferring degrees. The Degree Lodge shall be opened immediately after the Lodge is closed.

ARTICLE XII.

PENALTIES.

SECTION 1. No brother in arrears more than thirty weeks shall be entitled to benefits for sickness till six weeks after paying up his dues; and the same rule shall apply to brothers who have been re-instated after expulsion or suspension.

SECT. 2 Every member in arrears for eleven months shall be notified by the Secretary, if practicable, and, if his dues are not paid in four weeks after such notice, he may be suspended

during the pleasure of the Lodge, and, on re-instatement, shall pay the amount standing against him at the time of his suspension, with such other sum as the Lodge shall determine; and, in all cases, a vote for re-instatement shall be taken by ball ballot, and a two-thirds vote is requisite to re-instate.

SECT. 3. Any brother guilty of disrespectful conduct to the N. G., or of improper and disorderly language and conduct, in or out of the Lodge, to the members of the Order, or of preferring malicious charges against a brother, or shall knowingly propose unworthy characters for membership, may be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled, as the Lodge may determine.

SECT. 4. Any member who shall circulate slanderous reports against a brother, without first ascertaining the truth of such reports, or who shall aid and give credence to such reports, may be suspended or expelled, as the Lodge may determine.

SECT. 5. Any member guilty of habitual drunkenness, or of heinous offences against the laws of the land, or of feigning sickness for the purpose of obtaining benefits, may be expelled.

SECT. 6. Any member of this Lodge who shall reveal the name of the brother who may have opposed the admission of an applicant for membership, or reveal to any person, not a member of the Order, the name of any rejected applicant, may be suspended or expelled.

Immediately after every rejection of an application, the N. G. shall cause this section to be read in open Lodge.

ARTICLE XIII.

FRATERNAL COURTESY.

It is particularly enjoined that the members of this Lodge treat each other with due delicacy and respect, both in and out of the Lodge ; that all discussion be conducted in a spirit of candor, moderation, and open generosity ; and that all personal allusions or sarcastic language, by which the feelings of a brother may be injured, be carefully avoided ; that, in concord and good fellowship, we may cherish and preserve the most prominent objects of our Order—Friendship, Charity, and Harmony.

ARTICLE XIV.

AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. No alteration shall be made in the By-laws, except by a two-thirds vote at a Regular Meeting ; any proposed alteration must be made in writing two weeks before being acted upon, and read in open Lodge at every Regular Meeting after being presented until acted upon ; and no By law shall be suspended.

By-laws revised June, 1877.

RULES OF ORDER

OF

MUTUAL RELIEF LODGE NO. 83, I. O. O. F.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

RULE I. OPENING THE LODGE.

II. CALLING ROLL OF OFFICERS.

The Secretary shall call the roll of officers, and note absentees on the minutes.

III. READING MINUTES.

1. If no objection be made to any of the minutes, they shall stand approved, and the N. G. shall so declare them.

2. If errors appear, the minutes may be amended under the direction of the N. G.

IV. ADMISSION OF VISITING BROTHERS.

V. DOES ANY BROTHER KNOW OF A SICK BROTHER,
OR A BROTHER IN DISTRESS.

1. Report of each member of the Visiting Committee.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUS PROPOSALS FOR
MEMBERSHIP.

1. Reports of Investigating Committee, and balloting for candidates.

VII. INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS.

VIII. RECEPTION OF NEW PROPOSALS FOR MEMBER-
SHIP, AND REFERENCE TO THE IN-
VESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

IX. REPORTS.

1. Report of Standing Committee, Treasurer, &c., received and acted upon.

2. Report of Special Committees by seniority.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS APPEARING ON THE
MINUTES.

XI. NEW BUSINESS,

Including Communications, Bills, Application for Degrees, Cards, &c., Miscellaneous Business, Secretary's Report of Receipts since the last report, which must be entered on the minutes.

XII. HAS ANY BROTHER ANY THING TO OFFER FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.

XIII. CLOSING THE LODGE.

The Order of Business, as above arranged, may, for a special occasion, be changed, dispensed with, or any particular order taken up out of its due course, by a special *two-thirds* vote of the Lodge.

XIV. RULES OF ORDER

1. No question shall be stated, unless moved by two members, nor be open for consideration until stated by the N G ; and, when a question is before the Lodge, no motion shall be received unless to close the Lodge, the previous question, to lay on the table, to postpone, to commit, or to amend ; and shall have precedence, in the

order in which they are arranged, the first two which shall be decided without debate. No motion to reconsider a ballot shall at any time be had, but the same may be rescinded.

2. When a blank is to be filled, the question shall be first taken on the highest sum or number, and on the longest time proposed.

3. Any member may call for a division of a question when the sense will admit of it.

4. Any five members calling for the yeas and nays, they shall be ordered by the N. G., and recorded on the minutes.

5. After any question, except one of indefinite postponement, has been decided, any two members who voted in the majority may, at the same or next Regular Meeting, move for a reconsideration thereof; but no discussion of the main question shall be allowed, unless reconsidered.

6. All questions not provided for by these By-laws and Rules shall be determined by a majority of votes.

7. No member of this Lodge shall speak more than twice on any question under consideration, unless by the permission of the N. G.

8. When a brother intends to speak on a ques-

tion, he shall rise in his place, and respectfully address his remarks to the N. G., confine himself to the question, and avoid personality. Should more than one brother rise to speak at the same time, the N. G. shall determine who is entitled to the floor.

9 The N. G., or any member, may call a brother to order while speaking, when the debate shall be suspended; and the brother shall not speak till the point of order be determined, unless to appeal from the decision of the chair, when he may use the words following, and none other: "M. N. I respectfully appeal from the chair to the Lodge;" whereupon the Lodge, without debate or remark, shall proceed to vote upon the question, Will the Lodge sustain the decision of the chair?

10. When a brother has been called to order for the manifestation of temper or improper feelings, he shall not be allowed to speak again in the Lodge at that meeting.

11. No brother shall retire without leave of the N. G.

12. When the previous question is moved and seconded, it shall be put, which shall always be

in this form : Shall the main question be now put? and shall preclude all further amendments to the main question, and all debate.

13. No member shall be permitted to speak or vote on any question before the Lodge, unless clothed in suitable regalia.

14. No resolution shall be offered except in writing.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
AND
DECISIONS
OF THE
GRAND ORDER OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND OF THE UNITED STATES.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

Every subordinate Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge; and every P. G., on the certificate of his Lodge, shall be entitled to receive his degrees and attend the sessions of the Grand Lodge.

Each subordinate Lodge shall, at the last meet-

ing in June, annually, elect by ballot, from among its Past Grands who are in good standing, such of them as the Lodge may deem proper, to serve as representatives for one year from the first Wednesday of August.

Subordinate Lodges may, at any time, elect, from among their qualified members, such additional representatives as they may be entitled to, to serve until the next annual election ; but such election shall not be made until the Regular Meeting after that on which the nominations shall have been made.—*Const. Grand Lodge of Mass., Art. II.*

FUNDS.

The funds of subordinate Lodges are not liable to be divided, in any manner, among the members individually, or between one Lodge and another that may branch from it.—*By-laws of Grand Lodge of Mass., Art. 2, Sect. 3.*

A Lodge has no right to appropriate its funds for any other purpose than the legitimate objects for which they were created.—*Proceedings of Grand Lodge of Mass., Aug. 3, 1865.*

Every Lodge has a perfect right to regulate its own financial matters, and has the right, at any time, for a specific purpose, to lay additional assessments.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1851, vol. 2, p. 397.

Assessments may be laid at a Special Meeting, if called for that specific purpose ; and the By-laws do not say any thing to the contrary.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1865, vol. 2, p. 362.

A Lodge cannot loan its funds to its members, in equal amounts to each, taking their notes for the same —*Grand Lodge of Mass* , 1858, p. 436.

Subordinate Lodges have the right to determine the propriety of appropriating their funds to all purposes recognized by the Order.—*Digest*, Sect. 77.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

The subordinate Lodges have no right to question the authority of a District Deputy Grand Master, who shall present himself to install the officers of such Lodges.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1844, vol. 2, p. 153.

The District Deputy Grand Masters shall decline installing the officers of Lodges unless the Lodges shall exhibit evidence that they are free from indebtedness to the Lodge.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1851, vol. 2, p. 386.

It is the duty of the Deputy of the District to correct all errors he may discover in the work of the subordinates in his jurisdiction.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, vol. 3, p. 296.

It is the duty of the Grand Marshal to examine the N. G. and V. G. elect in the Degree of Rebekah. If they are not in possession of it, it is the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master to give it to them before installing them; or, if they have been installed without it, it is his duty to instruct them in it.—*Journal of G. L. U. S.*, p. 2277.

The officers illegally installed in defiance of the authority of the District Deputy Grand Master, the chairs are still in possession of the officers installed for the previous term — *Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1853, vol. 3, p. 14.

When the District Deputy Grand Master does not appear at the first Regular Meeting of the term, it shall be the duty of the senior P. G.

present to install the officers elect.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1848, vol. 2, p. 165.

District Deputy Grand Masters, when visiting a subordinate Lodge for the purpose of installing the officers, or other official duty, they, as the representatives of the M. W. Grand Master, shall be accorded the same honors as are given to that officer.—*Digest G. L. U. S.*, Sect. 1325.

APPEALS.

The general right of appeal to the Grand Lodge belongs to every member of the Order. An official appeal would necessarily suspend action in the Lodge upon the subject-matter appealed. An appeal of one or more individuals would not have that effect.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1847, vol. 2, p. 71.

The N. G. is the proper person to decide whether any motion is in order. This decision may be appealed from to the Lodge, unless it be upon a constitutional question, or one touching the principles of the Order; and either party, if dissatisfied, may appeal to the District Deputy Grand Master or to the Grand Lodge.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, vol. 3, p. 436.

ARREARS.

The neglect of the Secretary to send notice of arrears does not excuse the neglect of any brother to pay his dues.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, vol. 3, p. 389.

A brother in arrears, if sick, is not entitled to watchers unless the By-laws so provide.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, vol. 3, p. 437.

Suspension from membership works no suspension from arrears, but arrears run on during the time of suspension. It is within the power of Lodges to make such arrangements, in regard to accumulated arrears, as will enable the re-instatement of members.—*Digest*, Sect. 112.

A subordinate Lodge may compromise arrears of dues from one of its own members suspended for non-payment thereof—*Digest*, Sect. 113.

Subordinate Lodges and Encampments, in reinstating members suspended for non-payment of dues, shall have power to remit, in whole or in part, the dues accruing during the suspension of such member.

BALLOT.

No brother shall be obliged to give a reason

for casting a black ball,—*Grand Lodge of Mass* , 1846, vol. 1, p. 275.

The motion to rescind a ballot by which a candidate has been elected for initiation would be in order if any constitutional objection to his initiation should be made, and not otherwise.

Constitutional objections are, not being of age, ill health, immoral character, atheism, African descent, or subjects of a foreign power and only temporary residents within the jurisdiction of the United States.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, vol. 3, p. 340; *Grand Lodge U. S* , p. 658, &c.

A ballot can only be rescinded for the causes of ill health, immorality, error, or fraud.

To rescind a ballot requires a vote of two-thirds of the members present.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1857, vol. 3, p. 341.

A reconsideration of a ballot is inadmissible, except that, when all the brothers who may cast black balls against an applicant for membership voluntarily make a motion for a reconsideration of the ballot, the same may be reconsidered. The vote on the reconsideration shall be by ball-ballot; and, if unanimous, the reconsideration shall be had, whereupon the application shall lie

over till the succeeding meeting, when another ballot shall be had with ball-ballots, and, if unan-
imously in favor of the applicant, he shall thereby
be elected; but, if one or more black balls ap-
pear in either ballot, he shall be rejected. But
one reconsideration shall be allowed. Such re-
consideration shall be had within four meeting
nights succeeding the rejection. Except, also,
that, if a person has been irregularly elected
through fraud or error, a majority of the Lodge
can, previous to the applicant's initiation, order
a new ballot. After initiation, if he has been
guilty of fraud, he can be expelled, after proper
trial — *Digest, Sects. 128, 129, 130.*

When a candidate for membership in a subor-
dinate Lodge has been elected, but, subsequent
to his election, the Lodge shall become satisfied
that he is unworthy, it shall be competent for
the Lodge to annul such election and declare it
void, by a majority of two-thirds of the members
present. When declared void, nothing would
remain to be done except to ballot anew. — *Di-
gest, Sects. 131, 132.*

Every candidate must be balloted for sepa-
rately — *Digest, Sect. 133.*

A Lodge must ballot on an application whether the committee report favorably or unfavorably.—*Digest, Sect. 135.*

Balloting for degrees must be in a Degree Lodge, on the same evening on which the application is made therefor.—*Digest, Sects. 141, 144.*

No ballot is required for the Rebekah Degree.—*Digest, Sect. 146.*

Withdrawal cards are granted by ball ballot by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.—*Digest, Sects. 148, 149.*

BENEFITS.

A brother dying of sickness the result of his own immoral conduct, the claim for funeral benefits is valid ; the claim for his sick benefits is not valid. —*Journal Grand Lodge U. S., p. 807, &c.*

The N. G. has no right to pay benefits to any brother upon the brother's mere statement that he has been sick.—*Grand Lodge of Mass., 1857, vol 3, p. 389.*

To watch with the sick is one of the duties enjoined by the Order. Any brother from another jurisdiction must be supplied with watchers, the same as if he belonged to the Lodge to

which he applies for such assistance.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1857, vol 3, p. 296.

DUES.

Brothers who have been suspended cannot reinstate themselves by paying up their dues.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, vol 3, p. 437.

Any elective officer of the Lodge or Visiting Committee is in duty bound to receive the dues of a brother, and see that they are placed to his credit, when from sickness or disability he is unable to visit the Lodge for that purpose; and such neglect on the part of the officer or committee would not deprive a member of his right to receive benefits.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1859, vol. 3, p. 468.

The procuring of a receipt, or traveling-card, for a specified time in advance, does not relieve a brother from any legal assessments which may be laid, or any alteration of a by-law, during the interval of the dates of said card or receipt.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1859, vol. 3, p. 467.

MEMBERSHIP.

When a candidate for membership has been

elected but not initiated, it is not only the right but the duty of any member of the Lodge to object to the initiation of such member elect, if in possession of information proving the unworthiness of such person to become a member of the Order.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1848, vol. 2, p. 166.

If any candidate knowingly subscribes a false answer to any of the questions to candidates, it shall be the duty of the Lodge, on full evidence of the fact, to declare the act of initiation null and void, and notify all Lodges in the jurisdiction of the imposition, retaining the initiatory fee for payment of expenses.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1848, vol. 2, p. 190.

OFFICERS' DUTIES AND LIABILITIES.

For any misdemeanor of an elective officer in his official capacity, the proper remedy is impeachment. — *Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1847, vol. 2, p. 418.

For any offence not in his official capacity, the Lodge has the same right to try him as it has to try any other member.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1847, vol. 2, p. 70.

When charges have been preferred against any officer of a subordinate Lodge for conduct that would subject him to the discipline of his Lodge, he shall not exercise the functions of his office during the pendency of said charges.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1848, vol. 2, p. 166.

It appearing from the District Deputy's official opinion, properly obtained, that certain votes passed by a subordinate Lodge are illegal, it is not only the right but the duty of the N. G. to declare such votes to be null and void.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1857, vol. 3, p. 342.

If the chair of an elective officer becomes vacant, the Lodge may immediately fill the same by election; and the officer thus elected would be entitled to the honors of the office, should he serve to the end of the term.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, vol. 3, p. 388.

No subordinate Lodge has a right to rescind a vote whereby they have suspended a brother.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1846, vol. 1, p. 251.

If a brother has been suspended for ten years for the sole cause of non-payment of dues, a reversal of its action by the Lodge itself would be perfectly proper —*Journal of G. L. U. S.*, 1854; *Grand Lodge of Mass.*, vol. 3, p. 388.

A By-law which provides for the expulsion of a brother who moves to dissolve the Lodge, is illegal.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, vol. 3, p. 309.

No brother is liable to punishment for bringing charges, merely because he cannot prove them: There must be malice proved before punishment in such cases. It is any brother's right, and it may be his duty, to bring charges, even if he cannot prove them.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, vol. 3, p. 389.

The only effect of undecided charges is to deprive the member of the right to take a traveling or visiting card, and, when the charges bear upon the right to benefits, to suspend the payment thereof until a final decision.—*Digest*, Sect. 321.

An officer shall not act in his office during trial.—*Digest*, Sect. 1809.

TRIAL OF OFFICERS FOR OFFICIAL MIS- CONDUCT.

Charges must be preferred and sent to the Grand Secretary, after due notice has been given to the Lodge and the offending brother; and said

officer shall be tried by a commission of Past Grands appointed by the Board of Grand Officers.—*See Mass. Digest of Decisions, Nos. 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, and 217.*

QUORUM.

As five members of the Lodge may hold the Charter, the By-laws may not fix the quorum at a higher number than five. A less number than a quorum cannot open or close a Lodge.—*Grand Lodge of Mass., 1858, vol. 3, pp. 389-437.*

NOTICES OF REJECTION

Are not required to be sent to other Lodges in any cases except those in which the cause is specified, as immorality or ill health.—*Grand Lodge of Mass., 1844, vol. 1, p. 152.*

RE-INSTATEMENT.

When a brother, suspended for non-payment of dues, applies for re-instatement, the Lodge ought, in justice to themselves and the Order, to investigate the character and health of the brother with the same degree of caution as if

proposed for initiation, and he cannot be reinstated without vote of the Lodge.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, vol. 3, p. 388.

REGALIA.

The N. G. has the right to require Past Grands to be clothed in Past Grand's regalia when speaking in the Lodge — *Grand Lodge of Mass* , 1858, p. 437.

It is the duty of the V. G. to refuse to answer a brother who enters the Lodge-room without regalia.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, p. 437.

Officers entering a Lodge when open should clothe themselves with regalia, as any other brother.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1858, p. 437.

No brother has a right to enter or retire from a Lodge-room during recess or initiation.—*Grand Lodge of Mass.*, 1865, p. 362.

Any brother occupying, either permanently or temporarily, a subordinate station in a Lodge, should wear the regalia of the office he thus occupies.—*Digest*, Sect. 1362.

N. G. MAY INSTALL.

In the absence of the Grand Master or his

Deputy, and of all Past Grands, a N. G. may install his successor.—*Digest, Sect. 1343.*

VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS.

When the local law requires a majority of two-thirds of the members present to expel, members actually present, but excused from voting, must be reckoned in the count, and as voting in the negative.—*Digest, Sect. 1916.*

VISITORS.

Visitors with the proper credentials cannot be refused admittance to any Lodge, but their conduct is a matter for complaint.—*Grand Lodge U. S., pp. 677, &c.*

A member of a Grand Encampment has the right to wear his regalia and jewel as such when visiting any Grand or subordinate Lodge; but such brother would be considered a visitor, and would have neither the right to speak nor vote, nor perform any act as a member of the Lodge.—*By laws Grand Lodge U. S., Art. XXIV.*

In the absence of the N. G., the V. G. is *de facto* Noble Grand. It is not only his right but his duty to preside, and to exercise all the

powers and the functions of the superior officer, and to wear the regalia of the chair he thus temporarily fills. He cannot waive his right and place a Past Grand in the chair, except upon occasions of initiation or conferring of degrees, when a Past Grand may be invited to take the chair.—*Digest of Grand Lodge U. S.*, p. 108.

A Noble Grand may, in the absence of all Past Grands, deliver the Past Grand's charge at initiation; but a Vice Grand cannot, under any circumstances.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S.*, pp. 107 and 109.

The Noble Grand, or Secretary of the Lodge, has not the right to grant or issue a traveling-card unless applied for in open Lodge, and granted.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S.*, p. 22.

It is not necessary for a brother who receives a card to sign his name in the presence of the officers of the Lodge granting it; but it must be signed in the presence of the officer from whom he receives the A. T. P. W.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S.*, p. 20.

Without the production of a proper card, no brother can be admitted to a Lodge or Encampment beyond his own jurisdiction, unless intro-

duced by a Grand Representative or other elective Grand Officer of the jurisdiction in which he desires to visit.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S., p. 19.*

When a ballot has been declared null and void, the proposition and report of Investigating Committees are brought again before the Lodge for another ballot.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S., p. 14.*

The dues of a Lodge should be fixed at some stated rate in its Constitution or By-laws. They accrue weekly; and it is the right of a member otherwise in good standing, to pay them at any time. But if any one, who is debarred from benefits by the non-payment of dues, should pay them during sickness, he does not therefore become entitled to benefits during such sickness.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S., p. 48.*

A brother suffering from a chronic complaint, yet able to go to his place of business, superintend it, and participate in it to a degree, is *prima facie* not entitled to benefits as a sick member. But this presumption may be rebutted by positive evidence.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S., p. 15.*

Under the recognized and uniform principle governing in the Order, a brother, who, by infirmity, has been disqualified from following his usual occupation, but is not thereby disqualified from applying himself to other pursuits, and thus enabled to provide for his support, is not entitled to the benefits of his Lodge.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S.*, p. 16.

A suspended member, whether it be for non-payment of dues or for unworthy conduct, is still responsible for criminal or unworthy conduct, and also liable for the payment of dues.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S.*, p. 135.

The re-instatement of a suspended member takes place when the cause of suspension is removed or the term of suspension has expired, without discretion in the Lodge.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S.*, p. 128.

The proceedings had by Lodges when open in a particular degree, whether for the purpose of balloting for or conferring degrees, are distinct from the ordinary Lodge proceedings, and must be recorded in a separate and distinct minute-book, and not simply on a separate page of the regular minute-book.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S.*, p. 41.

Subordinate Lodges have regular nights for meeting, and have no power to adjourn a session to any other time, but must close in *due form*; and, if an extra meeting be required, it must be called in the manner prescribed by their By-laws; but a motion *to close the Lodge*, while a discussion is in progress, is in order—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S. p. 84.*

And whenever a member of his own Lodge presents himself at the door of the Lodge without the word, it is the duty of the N. G., after he shall have ascertained from the proper financial officer, that the brother is not disqualified from receiving it, to direct his admission.—*Digest Grand Lodge U. S. , p. 116.*

When a visiting brother presents himself at the door of the Lodge, it is his duty to hand his card to the Guardian, that it may be placed in possession of the Lodge. If the Lodge be satisfied of its authenticity, they will thereupon appoint a committee of three members—all of whom must have received the Scarlet Degree—to proceed to the ante-room, and examine the visiting brother. One member of this committee must be the N. G., or his Vice or sitting Past Grand, or some

other brother known to be in possession of the T. P. W., whose especial duty it shall be, first to obtain the said T. P. W. privately from the visitor, whose duty it shall be to commence by letters. This preliminary being settled, the committee will then proceed to examine the visitor in the degree in which the Lodge is open.—*Digest, Sect. 1868.*

A visitor having proved himself, shall be introduced to the Lodge by the committee.—*Digest, Sect. 1869.*



